

# Welcome to Conceptual Physics!

Ms. Parker

2010

Rm. A409

## Life, the Universe, and Everything

Physics is a class about the way the universe works, and the universe just happens to be one of my favorite places.

## We'll be doing what?

This course consists of theory (usually presented by lecture and demos), problem solving, lab skills, and readings. We'll learn material from chapters 2-9, 12-14, and 25-37 of your textbook: *Conceptual Physics* by Paul Hewitt.

## Just the facts, ma'am

When material is being presented in lecture, I need you to be *\*actively\** listening. One of the best ways to ensure that you do this is to ask questions and try to anticipate where the lecture is going. Nothing is more wonderful than a student who can beat a teacher to the punchline, so let's discuss the material early and often!

## Destiny = math/vacuum?!?

On tests and quizzes a correct answer is NOT accepted if the instructor cannot figure out how you got it or what it says. **Not only must you put your work down on paper, but it must be orderly and legible.** In this way, neatness counts. I expect all students to use the rules of standard English when completing essay questions or handing in written work.

## I'll pencil you in . . .

I teach classes blocks 1, 2, 4, and 5. I am often available for extra help the rest of the time. Look for me in my office (across the hall from the classroom), classroom, or science department office (next to South House). You are welcome to stop by unannounced anytime, and I will help you if I am free. You may have more luck by making an appointment (before, during, or after school), but if you do and then don't show up I'll be unhappy.

## Successful relationships, of every kind, begin with communication.

My phone extension is #2475. If you're out for an extended period of time, you can call to find out what you are missing. I am also quick to respond by e-mail ([Samantha\\_Parker@lsrhs.net](mailto:Samantha_Parker@lsrhs.net)), so use it! Take the opportunity to let me know how things are going for you in physics as well as in general.

Your physics teacher,  
Ms. Parker

## Classroom Rules:

- 1) **Be prepared for class (on time, with materials, ready to go at the BEGINNING of class).**
- 2) **Be respectful of me, each other, and yourself – this includes civility.**
- 3) **Behave like a \*student\* – follow directions, pay attention, be on time, raise your hand, and leave the room only when necessary and only for brief periods.**
- 4) **Have a cell phone? I see it/I hear it – I take it. Period. 1<sup>st</sup> offense, get it back at end of class; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, get it from your house office; 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, get it from your house office AND behavior report with 30 minute detention (the same for each later offense).**

Everything else is negotiable.

## Materials:

Loose-leaf binder with sections for notes and handouts or a spiral notebook and folder.

Pen or pencil. You can rent one for a dime, a cell phone, or a shoe per class period.

Scientific calculator – you'll need this almost every day!

Metric ruler & protractor – you'll appreciate having your own.

## Grading Policy:

Typical point values

- quizzes 10 pts    tests 100 pts    labs, activities 15-30 pts    home/classwork 10 pts
- Extra Credit: Students must come up with their own ideas for extra credit assignments. **ABSOLUTELY NO EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF A QUARTER.**
- Late homework will get ½ credit but may be turned in up to the day of the unit test.

Grades are weighted so that quizzes and tests together make 50%, labs/activities are 30%, homework/classwork is 20%.

Participation will affect your grade. It will be based on coming to class on time, doing your homework on time, actively participating in labs and activities, and participating in class discussions. I cannot in good conscience give an A to a student who does not participate even if (s)he earns an A on every test.

**MS. PARKER'S SCARIEST POLICY:** Three unexcused tardies will result in a behavior report with 30 minute detention. If you accumulate 53 minutes of unexcused tardies in one semester a CUT will be entered. The classroom clock keeps "official" school time; your cell phone does not.

## Absences:

If you have an **excused** absence, your late homework is due the next time you are in class. Make sure you read the assignment sheet -- if you are out on a day when the homework assigned was from the text, you are still expected to complete it! If you are out for only part of the day, you must pick up any work missed the same day. If you know in advance that you will be absent, you must inform me. Be ready to take a missed test/quiz on the day you return. Check my website for information and handouts.

## Advice:

Do not read the text as if it were a novel. Instead, you need to "interact" with the text. This means that you should physically go through example problems. Don't look straight to the bottom of the page where the answers are. Think first!

Before tests, do the end of chapter questions AGAIN as practice; do not just go over old homework problems. **Remember, you can e-mail me your questions!**